



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

No. 14-90AM

EFFECTIVE DATE:

2/11/93

TITLE

APPARATUS STAFFING POLICY

PAGE 1 OF 5

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission Regulation on:

### APPARATUS STAFFING POLICY

Issued by: Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

Regulation No. 14-90AM

Authority: Code Section 21-4B(e)(3)

Supersedes: Regulation No. 14-90

Council Review : Method (2) under Code Section 2A-15

Register Vol. 9, No. 10

Effective Date: February 11, 1993

**SUMMARY:** This regulation establishes staffing levels for fire and rescue apparatus to ensure personal safety and operational efficiency on all fire and rescue incidents. The regulation has been amended to require that personnel must be at least 18 years of age and certified as a Maryland EMT-A to count towards minimum staffing on MICUs or ambulances.

**DEADLINES:** Montgomery County Register Comment: October 31, 1992  
Montgomery County Fire Board Review: October 31, 1992  
Dept. of Fire and Rescue Services Review: Oct. 31, 1992  
Fire and Rescue Corporations Review: Oct. 31, 1992

**ADDRESS:** Submit comments pertaining to the proposed regulation to George Giebel, Chairman, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission, 12th Floor, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850.

**STAFF:** For additional information, you may contact Beth Feldman on 240 777-2423.

**BACKGROUND:** Adequate staffing levels of qualified personnel on fire and rescue apparatus are necessary to ensure the safety of all personnel and to facilitate the efficient delivery of fire and rescue services. Levels of desirable as well as minimum staffing have been determined and are set forth in this regulation.



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No. 14-90AM

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

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2/11/93

TITLE

APPARATUS STAFFING POLICY

PAGE 2 OF 5

**Sec. 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this regulation is to establish appropriate staffing levels and qualifications of personnel for fire and rescue apparatus. Adherence to this regulation will help to ensure the safety of all personnel and provide for the efficient delivery of fire, rescue, and emergency medical services.

**Sec. 2. Applicability.** This regulation applies to the Corporations, the Department, and all fire, rescue, and emergency medical service personnel, both career and volunteer.

### Sec. 3. Definitions.

- a. **Apparatus.** Engines, Ladder Trucks, Rescue Squads, Extrication Units, Brush Trucks, Mobile Intensive Care Units (MICUs), Ambulances, and special units.
- b. **Certified.** Certified by the Fire and Rescue Commission as eligible to serve at a specific rank in accordance with the Fire and Rescue Commission regulation on the Minimum Training Requirements and Certification Standards.
- c. **Corporation.** A fire and rescue Corporation established in the County, authorized to provide fire, rescue, or emergency medical services.
- d. **Department.** Department of Fire and Rescue Services.
- e. **Desired Staffing Level.** The desired minimum number of qualified personnel to staff a specified emergency vehicle.
- f. **Emergency Incident.** Any incident requiring the dispatch of a fire or rescue unit by the Emergency Communications Center.
- g. **Minimum Staffing Level.** The least number of qualified personnel required to staff specified apparatus.
- h. **MICU.** Mobile Intensive Care Unit.



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No. 14-90AM

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2/11/93

TITLE

APPARATUS STAFFING POLICY

PAGE 3 OF 5

- i. **Personnel.** Volunteer or career Firefighter/Rescuers, Rescuers, or Medical Attendants who are certified at the training level required for the position assigned.
- j. **Primary Unit.** Primary units are engines, ladder trucks, rescue squads, and extrication units that have been dispatched, or are available to be dispatched to an emergency incident.
- k. **Primary Unit Officer.** Individual certified as a Firefighter/Rescuer III, Rescuer III, or higher level.

**Sec. 4. Policy.** It is the policy of the Fire and Rescue Commission to ensure the safety of fire and rescue **personnel** and the efficient delivery of fire, rescue, and emergency medical services on all **emergency incidents** by establishing **minimum staffing levels** of qualified **personnel** for all **apparatus**. The required **minimum staffing levels** specified in this regulation will promote these objectives.

- a. **Minimum Staffing Levels.** **Minimum staffing levels** required for the following **apparatus** are:

Engines- three **personnel**  
Ladder Trucks- three **personnel**  
Rescue Squads- three **personnel**  
Extrication Units- three **personnel**  
Brush Truck- one person  
**MICUs**- three **personnel**  
Ambulance- two **personnel**  
Special Units- one person

- 1. To determine whether **minimum staffing levels** have been achieved for a specific **apparatus**, the following standard applies:



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

No. 14-90AM

EFFECTIVE DATE:

2/11/93

TITLE

APPARATUS STAFFING POLICY

PAGE 4 OF 5

- A. **Personnel** must be at least 16 years of age and **certified** at the Firefighter/Rescuer I or Rescuer I level to count towards **minimum staffing levels** for Engines, Ladder Trucks, Rescue Squads, Extrication Units, Brush Trucks, and special units.
- B. **Personnel** must be at least 18 years of age and **certified** as a Maryland EMT-A to count towards **minimum staffing** on **MICUs** or ambulances.
- C. A **primary unit officer** must be included in the **minimum staffing levels** in all **primary units**.
- D. At least one Maryland CRT paramedic must be included in the **minimum staffing levels** in all **MICUs**.
2. **Personnel certified** at the Firefighter/Rescuer or Rescuer levels may be used as supplemental staffing on all **apparatus** but do not count towards **minimum staffing levels**.
3. **Apparatus** responding with less than the **minimum staffing level** must notify the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) that it is responding understaffed and state the number of qualified **personnel** on the **apparatus**.
  - A. The ECC must dispatch an additional unit to supplement each understaffed unit only after consulting with the Incident Commander.
  - B. If the additional unit responds with less than the **minimum staffing level** but with enough qualified **personnel** to complete the **minimum staffing level** of the original understaffed unit, it will not be necessary for ECC to dispatch an additional unit.
4. **MICUs** and ambulances should not respond if staffed with fewer than two **personnel**.
- b. **Desired Staffing Levels.** When sufficient **personnel** are available, the **desired staffing levels** for **apparatus** are at least:



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

No. 14-90AM

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

EFFECTIVE DATE:

2/11/93

TITLE

APPARATUS STAFFING POLICY

PAGE 5 OF 5

Engines- four **personnel**  
Ladder Trucks- four **personnel**  
Rescue Squads- four **personnel**  
Extrication Units- four **personnel**  
Brush Trucks- two **personnel**  
**MICUs**- three **personnel**  
Ambulances- three **personnel**  
Special Units- two **personnel**

- c. The **desired staffing level** for **MICUs** is at least one Maryland EMT-A, one CRT, and one EMT-P.

### Sec. 5. Responsibilities.

- a. The **Corporations**, with the assistance of the **Department**, must attempt to ensure that **minimum staffing levels** are available for all **apparatus**.
- b. All **personnel** must ensure compliance with this policy by reporting to the ECC any **apparatus** responding with less than the **minimum staffing level** as responding understaffed.

**Sec. 6. Severability.** If a court of final appeal holds that any part of this regulation is invalid, that ruling does not affect the validity of other parts of the regulation.

**Sec. 7. Effective Date.** This regulation is effective 30 days after Council adoption or 90 days after Council receipt if the Council takes no action within 60 days of its receipt.

Attest:

George Giebel, Chairman  
Fire and Rescue Commission

Effective Date: February 11, 1993

Apparatus staffing policy BF